



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Howard County Police to Receive Governor's Crime Prevention Awards

The Howard County Police Department has been selected to receive a Governor's Crime Prevention Award for 2008. The department is being recognized for "incorporating an overall outstanding crime prevention program as an integral part of its daily operations."

"Howard County's continued low crime rate is a true testament to the work of our police department and the community those officers serve," said Howard County Executive Ken Ulman. "Chief McMahon truly believes in community-oriented policing, and that has become a cornerstone of this agency. Obviously the Governor's Office sees in the Howard County Police Department what we all see every day."

The department also is announcing that six HCPD employees, volunteers or groups have been selected individually to receive awards. These recipients are being recognized for outstanding contributions in crime prevention strategies and programs over the last year.

"We are proud that the efforts of so many people involved with the Howard County Police Department are being recognized," said Police Chief William J. McMahon. "We see first-hand the exceptional work done by our employees and volunteers, but it's nice to see their successes acknowledged on a larger scale."

Police Officer Erika Heavner is receiving an award for her effective crime prevention efforts in the Chapel View community of Ellicott City, which faced ongoing problems of drug activity, destruction of property and thefts from vehicles in the neighborhood.

Debbie Gunn, a civilian employee assigned to the police satellite office in North Laurel, is being recognized for her efforts to promote positive relationships between police and the community. Her efforts helped reduce trespassing, theft and vandalism for many business and property owners.

The Howard County Police Explorer Post 1952, a program of volunteers ages 14-21, is receiving an award for its participation in mentoring programs addressing the needs of children at-risk for violence or drugs.

Howard County citizen Patricia Thompson was nominated by the police department for her volunteerism at police events, including National Night Out and sobriety checkpoints.

The HCPD Community Resource Section is being recognized for its continuing efforts to provide solutions for community issues and to improve relationships between the community and police.

The HCPD Domestic Violence Unit is receiving an award for their efforts to increase domestic violence arrests, improve the collection of evidence for prosecutions and increase training for officers for investigating abuse.

The Governor's Crime Prevention Awards are given each year to agencies, officers, community groups, businesses and private citizens throughout Maryland that have made outstanding contributions to the furtherance of crime prevention programming. Recipients are expected to receive the awards at a ceremony in December.

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